(b) whether the Arun Singh Committee report on defence expenditure, suggesting self reliance through modernization has been implemented, if not so the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the del ails of the report and by when it is proposed to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (.A)' Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has taken decisions to implement a number of recommendations of the Committee on Defence Expenditure directly relating to economy measures. These involved reduction of expenditure on manpower, FOL, transportation, rationalisation of training programmes, inventory management. Efforts towards self-reliance and modernisation are an on going process.

Recruitment of women in Indian Forces

1242. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the details of the scheme for recruitment of women in Indian Armed Forces ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRi SHARAD PAWAR) : The Government have approved induction of women in :

(i) *Army :* Army Set vice Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, Army Education Corps, Judge Advocate General Department. Army Postal Service, Corps of Signals, Intelligence Corps, Corps of Engineers, Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, and Regiment of Artillery-

(ii) *Air force :* Non-technical Ground Duty Branches, Navigation & Technical Branches, and Flying Pilots (transport & helicopter stream).

(iii) *Navy* : Education Branch, Law and Logistics cadres.

The induction of women is restricted to the officer cadre, on Short Service Commission basis, initially for a period of five years, except in the case of Technical Branch of Air Force, where it is for a period of three years.

Strengthening the Coast Guard Fleet

1243. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the Statesman of February 4, 1993 about ESI sponsored arms flow into India;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that our Coast Guards are not properly equipped to carry out highsea interception of weapon consignments smuggled into the county;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 80 Per cent of our fleet with the Coast Guards is outdated and usually remain out of Order;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) what steps Govemment propose to take to strengthen the Coast Guard Fleet ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Coast Guard ships and aircrafts are suitably equipped *to* carry out high sea interception of materials attempted to be smuggled into the country.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Coast Guard ships are in a high state of operational breparedness at all times.

(e) The Coast Guard is being strengthened as per the Five Year Coast Guard Development Plans. During the Coast Guard Development Plan 1992—97, a number of ships/boats and aircraft are planned for induction into service.

Rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen

1244. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 23 thousand ex-servicemen are still tmemploy-ed in West Bengal;